

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /121 W

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O R 121650Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 508

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, MZ, PO

SUBJ: EVENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. DCM HADDISCUSSION SEPT. 10 WITH MAJOR VITOR ALVES,
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND MEMBER OF AFM COORDINATING
COMMITTEE, ON SUBJECT OF MOZAMBIQUE UPRISING.

2. DCM NOTED THAT THE TROOPS IN LOURENCO MARQUES SEEMED
TO BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE WHITE REBELS.
HE ASKED IF IT MIGHT NOT BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHITES IN
ANGOLA WHO SHARE THE VIEWPOINT OF LOURENCO MARQUES REBELS TO HAVE
NOTED THAT PORTUGUESE TROOPS WOULD NOT ACT AGAINST REBELLIOUS
WHITES? MAJOR AVLES SAID THAT THE SITUATIONS WERE QUITE
DIFFERENT IN LOURENCO MARQUES AND LUANDA. IN THE FIRST PLACE
THERE WERE RELATIVELY FEW TROOPS IN THE LOURENCO MARQUES
AREA, WHEREAS IN LUANDA THERE WAS A VERY SIZABLE NUMBER
OF TROOPS. SECONDLY, THE FEW TROOPS WHO ARE STATIONED
IN THE LOURENCO MARQUES AREA ARE LARGELY WHITE
MOZAMBICANS, WHO WOULD NATURALLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
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OPEN FIRE ON THEIR FELLOW WHITE MOZAMBICANS. IN LUANDA,

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TROOPS STATIONED THERE ARE FROM THE METROPOLE AND HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE WHITE ANGOLANS. FURTHERMORE, THE ANGOLANS WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT THE RESPONSE OF THE LISBON GOVERNMENT TO THE EVENTS IN LOURENCO MARQUES WAS A FIRM STAND AGAINST THE ACTION BY THE REBELS.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE POSITION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA CONCERNING THE EVENTS, MAJOR ALVES NOTED THAT THOSE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD TAKEN A QUITE PROPER POSITION AND THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THESE ACTIONS TO REPRESENT SUBTERFUGE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT MIGHT BE AN ATTRACTIVE IDEA TO SOME PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION AND ACQUIRE THE AREA OF MOZAMBIQUE AT LEAST SOUTH OF THE LIMPOPO. HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD MAKE ANY SUCH MOVE WHICH WOULD VIRTUALLY GUARANTEE A RACE WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY WHEN UGANDA PRESIDENT IDI AMIN BECOMES OAU PRESIDENT NEXT YEAR.
SCOTT

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